

## **A-1 — Public Involvement Summary**

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## **Long Island Sound Environmental Impact Statement Public Involvement Chapter**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process ensures that the public is offered an opportunity for involvement in assessing projects subject to environmental review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Public involvement throughout the review process helps to ensure that the plans, recommendations, and policies are environmentally and technically appropriate. In addition, NEPA regulations for implementation of projects by EPA (under 40 CFR Parts 6 and 25) and the Army Corps of Engineers (under 33 CFR Part 230) and the Council of Environmental Quality's regulations (40 CFR 1500 et seq.) require a public involvement program. An extensive public involvement program was conducted throughout the development of this Draft EIS to provide the public with information on the EIS process, the progress of studies for the Draft EIS, and to create opportunities for the public to provide input and comment on the development of this EIS. Throughout the development of this Draft EIS the public was supplied with information needed to understand the EIS process, to understand the issues surrounding disposal of dredged material in order to make informed comments, and to ask pertinent questions.

This appendix includes the documents that were produced during the public involvement process. Below is a list of documents in this appendix.

- Notice of Intent
- Summary of Scoping Meetings
- Summary of Written comments
- October 1999 Workshop Proceedings
- April 2000 Workshop Proceedings
- Working Group Meeting #1
- Working Group Meeting #2
- Working Group Meeting #3
- Working Group Meeting #4
- Working Group Meeting #5
- Federal Correspondence
- Tribe Correspondence
- State Correspondence
- Public Correspondence
- Other miscellaneous

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## **A-2 — Notice of Intent**

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# Notice of Intent

Billing Code 6560-50-M

Designation of Dredged Material Disposal Sites in Long Island Sound, Connecticut and New York. Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement.

**AGENCIES:** U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Region I, New England and Region II, New York in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), New England and New York Districts.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to consider the potential designation of one or more dredged material disposal sites in the waters of Long Island Sound under section 102(c) of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) and 40 C.F.R. 230.80 of EPA's regulations under section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The EIS will provide an evaluation of the existing historically used sites known as the Western Long Island Sound Disposal Site, the Central Long Island Disposal Site, the Cornfield Shoals Disposal Site and the New London Disposal Site, as well as additional alternatives including other open water disposal sites, other types of dredged material disposal and management, and the no action alternative.

**PURPOSE:** In accordance with EPA's Statement of Policy for Voluntary Preparation of National Environmental Policy Act documents for all ocean disposal site designations (Federal Register 62(229): 63334-63336, October 29, 1998), EPA issues this Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the Designation of Dredged Material Disposal Sites in Long Island Sound, offshore of Connecticut, and New York.

**SUMMARY:** Dredged material has been disposed of at the existing sites known as the Western Long Island Sound, the Central Long Island Sound, the Cornfield Shoals and the New London Disposal Sites pursuant to programmatic and site designation EIS released by the Corps in 1982 and 1991. This activity has been regulated in different ways at different times depending on the status of applicable law and policy. EPA and the Corps have identified a likely need to continue the marine disposal of dredged material in the Long Island Sound area. Therefore, the two agencies have decided to consider the continued use of the above-listed existing sites and their designation as dredged material disposal sites under section 102(c) of the MPRSA. Other alternatives will also be evaluated, including other open water disposal sites, other disposal and management options, and the no action alternative. *Designation of a site does not by itself authorize or result in disposal of any particular material, it only serves to make the designated site a disposal option available for consideration in the alternatives analysis for each individual dredging project in the area.*

The EPA and the Corps, have entered an agreement to undertake designation of dredged material disposal sites in Long Island Sound under Section 102(c) of the MPRSA. The EPA has the responsibility of designating sites under Section 102(c) of the Act and 40 CFR Part 228.4 of its regulations. EPA and the Corps will also consider making an advanced identification under 40 C.F.R. § 230.80 of EPA's Clean Water Act section 404 regulations for any site that may be designated. The Clean Water Act and the MPRSA come into play because the waters of Long Island Sound are inland waters, but section 106(f) of the MPRSA extends certain aspects of the MPRSA into Long Island Sound for certain projects.

An EIS will evaluate the four current sites used in the Sound as well as other sites for, and means of, disposal and management, including the no action alternative. The EIS will support the EPA's final decision on whether one or more dredged material disposal sites will be designated under the MPRSA identified in advance under 40 C.F.R. §230.80. The EIS will include analysis applying the five general and 11 specific site selection criteria for designating ocean disposal sites presented in 40 CFR Parts 228.5 and 228.6, respectively. The Corps, New England District, has prepared a study reviewing existing data for the existing sites relative to these criteria and this study will serve as a starting point for further evaluation of the existing sites in the EIS.

**NEED FOR EIS:** On May 7, 1974, and as amended in October 29,1998, the EPA published a Statement of Policy on Environmental Impact Statements (EISs). Section (1) (d) (2) of that policy specifies that EISs will be prepared in connection with ocean disposal site designations under Section 102 (c) of the MPRSA. Evaluation of site designation, and advanced identification under 40 C.F.R. §230.80, will serve to clarify the availability of particular sites for consideration as dredged material disposal options over the long term.

**ALTERNATIVES:** In evaluating the alternatives, the EIS will identify and evaluate locations within the Long Island Sound study area that are best suited to receive dredged material suitable for open water marine disposal. At a minimum, the EIS will consider various alternatives including:

- no-action (i.e., no designation of any sites)
- designation of one or more of the existing open water sites

- designation of alternative open water sites identified within the study area that may offer environmental advantages to the existing sites
- identification of other disposal and/or management options, either in or out of the water.

**SCOPING:** The Environmental Protection Agency - New England Region and the Corps of Engineers, New England District, will hold public scoping meetings on June 15, 1999 at the State University of New York, Stony Brook Union Auditorium, 100 Nicolls Road, Stony Brook, June 16, 1999 and Groton Inn & Suites, Main Room Left, 99 Goldstar Highway, Route 184, Groton Connecticut; and June 23, 1999 at Westin Stamford Hotel, Commodore Vanderbilt, One First Stamford Place, Stamford, CT. For all meetings, registration will be from 6:00 - 7:00 PM; the meetings will be between the hours of 7:00 and 10:00 PM. Details of the history of the project and the alternatives to be considered will be presented. The public is invited to attend and identify issues that should be addressed in the EIS.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND TO BE PLACED ON THE PROJECT MAILING LIST CONTACT:

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CWQ  
Boston, MA  
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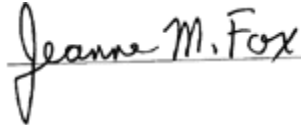
Please contact Ann Rodney should you have special needs (sign language interpreters, access needs) at the above address or our TDY# (617) 918-1189.

ESTIMATED- DATE OF THE DRAFT EIS RELEASE:  
Fall 2001

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIALS:



John P. DeVillars  
Regional Administrator  
EPA - New England  
Date: 5/18/99



Jeanne M. Fox  
Regional Administrator  
EPA - Region II  
Date:



## **A-3 — Public Outreach**

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## **Summary of Scoping Meetings**

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## **Summary of Written Public Comments**

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**October 1999  
Workshop Proceedings**

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**April 2000  
Workshop Proceedings**

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## **Working Group Meeting #1**

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## **Working Group Meeting # 2**

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